



The Green Thumb

A Newsletter of Extension Horticultural Activities and Events
For York County Extension Volunteers

Vol. 5, Issue 3
March, 2004

Calendar of Events

Apr 1, 9am-12 noon	Using Office Resources Training, Extension Office
Apr 3, 9am	Spring Home Gardener Program, Yorktown Library
Apr 7, 6:30pm	On Site Plant Health Clinic, Ivy Arch/Coventry
Apr 16, 12 noon	WHRO 89.5 Radio Gardening Show
Apr 17, 8am-3pm	CNU's 7 th Annual Gardening Symposium
Apr 20, 6:30pm	On Site Plant Health Clinic, Prince Henry Ct/Yorkshire Downs
Apr 28, 6:30pm	On Site Plant Health Clinic, Waterfowl Dr/Lakes of Dare
Apr 28, 10:15am	Horticultural Therapy Group Meeting, York Convalesant Home
May 1, 9-12 noon	Learning Garden Plant Sale
May 1 & 8, 9am-3pm	VA Living Museum Spring Flower Sale
May 2 & 9, noon-3pm	VA Living Museum Spring Flower Sale
May 4, 6:30pm	On Site Plant Health Clinic, Creek Point Cir/Skimino
May 6, 6:30pm	On Site Plant Health Clinic, Grafton District Rd/Edgehill
May 11-13	Annual Overnight Study Trip, Raleigh, NC
May 18, 9am-12 noon	Advanced Lawn Training, location to be determined
May 26, 10:15am	Horticultural Therapy Group Meeting, York Convalesant Home
May 26, 6:30pm	4-H Mums Orientation meeting, Extension Office

Thursdays Work/Learn Day in the Learning Garden 9:30 – 11:30 a.m.

For additions/corrections to the Calendar of Events contact Jody at 890-4940. The deadline for the Green Thumb is ALWAYS the 15th of the month, no exception.

E-mail changes: If you have changes to any of the methods of communication to you please notify Jody. Jody will pass the word. We want to keep in contact with you. These changes will be posted to the weekly e-mails and will be in the Green Thumb.

Master Gardener Mission Statement

Our mission, as trained volunteers in partnership with the York County, Virginia Cooperative Extension Agent, is to provide horticultural educational opportunities to the public through research-based horticultural programs and activities to enhance our environment, lives and community.

www.ext.vt.edu

Extension is a joint program of Virginia Tech, Virginia State University, the U.S. Department of Agriculture, and state and local governments.

Virginia Cooperative Extension programs and employment are open to all, regardless, of race, color, religion, sex, Age, veteran status, national origin, disability, or political affiliation. An equal opportunity/affirmative action employer.

Notes from Jim

Thank you to Janine and all master gardeners on the pruning team. You have made some significant contacts and given out good information on pruning. This is right in line with the mission of master gardeners and one of the reasons that makes our program work out so well. Janine is compiling some good information about the evaluations and the attendance at these clinics. She is also updating the posters to be on PowerPoint. We will soon have a second slide set of the pruning slide set. She has implemented some good techniques for pre-visits to the sites that we can pass onto other educational teams. Thank you Janine.

As we get closer to the gardening season, your help responding to phone requests will be greater. I hope that when you are asked you will be able to assist. Responding to the calls is a good educational opportunity and we always know that we can respond as, "I do not know that answer but I will be glad to look it up and get back with you." Thank you for your help and continued support.

Come use the office library. The library continues to receive new books and you are welcome to browse with the idea that you can select to check them out for further exploration. Books can be checked out for three weeks at a time. Also, please use the publications and educational materials that Jody has placed on our website. The pruning crape myrtle tree step-by-step information is now up along with the calendars and other helpful information.



CNU's 7th Annual Gardening Symposium

Christopher Newport University will be hosting its annual Gardening Symposium on Saturday, April 17th, from 8:00 am to 3:00 pm. This is a marvelous opportunity to access a wealth of practical gardening information at a very moderate price. This year's keynote speaker is Sandy McDougle, founder of Sandy's Plants, a wholesale/retail perennial nursery in Mechanicsville. Ms. McDougle will be speaking on "Four Seasons of Beauty With Perennials." The six workshops are:

Landscaping Design...Down to the Last Detail, by Jim Orband, York Co Extension Agent

Happy...Healthy...Gardens, by Joel Bunn, Supervisor of IPM and Arboriculture, Colonial Williamsburg Foundation.

Good Things Do Grow in Small Spaces, by Dr. Linda Johnson, Christopher Newport University

Dave's Favs...for Tidewater Gardens, by Dr. David Banks, Christopher Newport University

Plants and the Animals that Love Them: Gardening for Wildlife, by Janis Miller, Horticulture Curator, VA Living Museum

West Meets East: Why Do Japanese Gardens Look the Way They Do?, by Dr. Barbara Savitzky, Christopher Newport University

The \$15 cost includes a box lunch, keynote speech, two 60-minute workshops, plant sales/displays, flower arranging exhibit, CNU garden tours, silent drawing of garden giveaways, and more. The registration deadline is April 2, 2004. The Symposium brochures/registration forms are available at the extension office, or you can contact CNU Lifelong Learning directly at 594-7568 or www.cnu.edu/lfs.

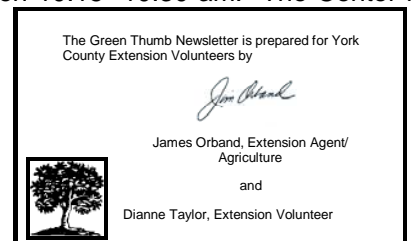
Please contact Clare Britcher, 867-7970, clarewb@cox.net, if you need additional information.



Horticultural Therapy Meeting

Our Horticultural Therapy group uses flower arranging as a way to interact with convalescent center residents. We meet the fourth Wednesday of each month at the York Convalescent Center on Battle Road between 10:15 -10:30 am. The Center is visible from Route 17.

Local florists donate the flowers. Our group works with the residents to help them make small flower arrangements that they can take to their rooms. It brings joy to them and is a fulfilling activity for all of us. It usually takes an hour and a half from setup to clean up. The volunteers and residents make a great team and we all have a wonderful time. I invite all Master Gardeners who are interested in participating to contact me at 223-0786 or at Clare4Todd@aol.com.



Changes to the 2004 York Co Master Gardeners' List

Please make the following changes:

Karen Diggs: Billdiggs@verizon.net	Barb Dunbar: twotac@cox.net	Gina Niedenberger: nied619@msn.com
Terry Hanson: hanson5t@cox.net	Helen Janele: ecoscapex@cox.net	Beth Saunders: saunders52@cox.net
Abe Lauer: mglauer@cox.net	Nancy Tortorice: Drop moved to CA	

Important E-mail Note for YAHOO.COM & HOTMAIL.COM Users

YAHOO.com and HOTMAIL.com are free and therefore a common target of spam mail. As a result most government agencies, including York County block incoming e-mail from yahoo.com and hotmail.com addresses. This means that yahoo.com and hotmail.com addressees can receive e-mail from York County but cannot send e-mail to York County. It also means that you cannot reply to e-mail that you receive from York County.



Learning Garden Plant Sale

This is a reminder to those of you who are donating plants to the LG plant sale on May 1, 2004. Please start potting your plants now so they have time to develop roots before the sale. If you need empty pots, please stop by the learning garden and pick them up.

Master Gardeners should meet at around 8am to begin set up for the plant sale. The sale will be open to the public from 9am to 12 noon. If you have any other questions concerning the plant sale, please contact the LG coordinator, Terry Hanson, at 872-9639.



Master Gardener Homecoming

During the summer, we generally have our social get-together in the way of a picnic, ice cream social or some other fun activity. This year, we want everyone to join their fellow MGs for a homecoming event. Some MGs attend the monthly programming meetings, others work in the Learning Garden and some participate in our public clinics just to mention a few. I would like to see everyone at a single event so we could all meet each other. I know not everyone likes to attend the same events or activities. This is why I am looking at a collaborative exercise in the form of a survey of all MGs to get a sense of what would bring the highest number of us together. The MGs that attended the February Programming Meeting at St. Luke's filled in the Homecoming Survey that was sent out via e-mail a week later. Information from this survey will be tabulated and used as a way of identifying the most popular time and format for this year's event. So when you see the e-mail with the attached Homecoming Survey, please complete and return it. I am looking forward to meeting every one of you there.

Please contact Hank Scheele at 833.6362 or hfscheele@yahoo.com if you have questions.



Free Lawn Mowing Class for Youth

The York County Extension Office is offering their award-winning 4-H lawn mowing class designed for youth ages ten through high school. This course meets for five consecutive Monday nights in March from 6:30-8:00pm at St. Luke's Methodist Church on Ella Taylor Road in York County. Students living outside of York County are welcome to enroll. This fun and informative course teaches lawn mower safety, lawn care basics, cutting techniques, lawn mower maintenance and ideas on how to start and run a successful lawn mowing business. Classes include games, role-playing, hands-on activities, and a field trip to a lawn and garden center to learn about caring for lawn equipment. Parents may attend classes with students. Last year this course won national recognition as an outstanding county program offered to its citizens. Enrollment is limited. Please call the York County Extension Office at 890-4940 to register.

Corona RS7040 7" Pruning Saw Blades

George Fries has some brand new blades for a Corona model RS7040 7" Prune saw that he cannot use. Any York County Master Gardener CAN HAVE the blades free. (They must be worth \$5-\$10 a piece.) Call George at 898-8115.



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There are opportunities available for Master Gardener moderators to participate in this CNU event. You will be required to briefly introduce the speaker from a prepared script. If you are interested, please contact Clare Britcher 867-7970 or e-mail clarewb@cox.net.



Junior Master Gardener Program

The Junior Master Gardener Program is scheduled to start in mid-April at Coventry Elementary School. This is an awesome program. It started over four years ago as a dream of a handful of master gardeners and educators in Texas. The JMG program introduces children to the art and science of gardening, nutrition and the environment and also involves them in their local community by planning and completing different community/ school service projects. Texas A&M developed the curriculum in the form of student handbooks and teaching guides for different age levels. The Junior Master Gardener Certification entails 44 teaching concepts, 44 individual concepts, and 8 community service projects. The Golden Ray Certification includes 12 teaching concepts and 1 community service project. We will be starting with the Golden Ray Certification to get our "feet wet" and by next September, we hope to have a full-fledged program in place. Eleanor Powell, the James City County Extension Agent, who helped develop the guidelines for the program in Virginia, has offered to do a **training class for all interested master gardeners on March 12th from 9 AM - 12 noon**. The class will be held at the Public Safety Office next to the learning garden. If you are interested, please contact Barb Dunbar either by phone at 766-2174 or email, twotac@cox.net. For more information of this WONDERFUL PROGRAM go online to JMGkids.com.

Virginia Living Museum to hold Spring Wildflower Sale

More than 50 species of native perennials, trees, shrubs and ferns will be available at the Virginia Living Museum's spring wildflower sale May 1, 2, 8 and 9. The museum's horticulture staff and members of the John Clayton Chapter of the Virginia Native Plant Society hold this annual sale as a fund-raiser, but the real goal is to introduce the gardening public to the incredible variety of native plants that will do well in the landscape, and to educate them about those which are better left in the wild.

The museum offers only nursery or garden propagated natives, many of which are unavailable through local retail outlets. This year's selections include atamasco lily, Black-eyed Susan, butterfly weed, cardinal flower, fringe tree, wild indigo and wild columbine, milkweeds and many more. Wildflower seeds will also be available.

There are plants suitable to a variety of garden sites and gardening styles, and many are attractive to butterflies or hummingbirds. Several of the plants tolerate heat and drought conditions, while others are suitable for wet or shady conditions. Information about the color, size, blooming period and site preference of the various plants will be available for buyers to take home. Plenty of expert wildflower gardeners will be on hand to answer questions and help with selections. The Virginia Native Plant Society will have a display and information about the society's programs and activities.

Sale hours are Saturdays, May 1 and 8 from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., and Sundays, May 2 and 9 from noon to 3 p.m. The sale is held rain or shine. Admission is free. For additional information, call the museum's horticulture staff at 757-595-1900 or visit the Web site at www.valivingmuseum.org.



Annual Overnight Study Trip

Jim Orband and I met about dates and places for the annual overnight study trip. We will be leaving on the morning of May 11 and returning on the evening of May 13. We will be visiting the Raleigh-Durham area. We will probably visit Duke Gardens, N.C. Botanical Gardens (both in Durham), and J. C. Raulston Gardens at N.C. State University in Raleigh. We may get to Plants Delight near Fuquay-Varina and I hope we will visit many private gardens like the Norman Beals house. We will end with a visit to Big Bloomers in Sanford, N.C.

Dr. Bob Lyons will host us at the J.C. Raulston Gardens and has invited any male participants to sleep at his house. We understand that he may have us all over for pizza or a cook-out at his house. The rest of us will be staying in a safe and centrally located motel in the area.

This will be our third trip to the Raleigh-Durham area and if this one holds up to our past experiences it will be one GREAT trip. If you haven't gone with us before and can get the time off, you will enjoy the gardens and have a really good time with all of your fellow MGs. If you would like to go and want to invite someone who is not an MG, you should understand that they can come along, but they cannot ride on the county van or car because only MGs are covered under the insurance. In other words, they must follow along in their own car. You are responsible for your lodging, meals, and applicable garden entrance fees.

Jim tells me he can only get the 7-passenger van and a car from the county this trip. We won't have the big van with the yellow blinking light for those of us in cars to follow :(.

I will be working on putting this trip together so let me know if you are interested. See you at the meeting on March 9th. Please contact me, Eleanor Hill at 868-8646, or captmi@cox.net, if you want to sign up or have questions.

MARCH 2004

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
	1 6:30pm 4-H lawn Mowing Proj, St Lukes Methodist Church	2 9-12am Master Gardener Training, Norfolk MG, Norfolk Botanical Garden	3 9-12 Tree Stewards	4	5 1pm Set up for Horticultural Extravaganza	6 9-3pm Horticultural Extravaganza, St Lukes Methodist Church
7	8 6:30pm 4-H lawn Mowing Proj, St Lukes Methodist Church	9 9:30-11:30am Monthly Programming and Quarterly Meeting	10 9-12 Tree Stewards 9-12 Phone Training, Ext. Off.-Pre-Reg Req	11	12 9-12 Jr MG Trng Pgm, Pub Safety Off @Learn Grdn 12 Yorkscapes Cleanup	13 9am Spring Home Gard Prog, Yorktown Libr <hr/> 9:30-12:30Comm Reforest-ation Proj/Toano
14	15 6:30pm 4-H Lawn Mowing Project, St. Lukes 7-8pm MG Winter Lecture Series, Brent Heath	16	17 9-12 Tree Stewards	18	19 12-1 WHRO 89.5 Radio Gardening Show	20 9am Spring Home Gardener Program, Yorktown Public Library
21	22 6:30pm 4-H Lawn Mowing Project, St Lukes Methodist church	23	24 9-12 Tree Stewards	25	26	27 9am Spring Home Gardener Program, Yorktown Public Library
28	29 6:30pm 4-H Lawn Mowing Project, St Lukes Methodist Church	30	31 9-12 Tree Stewards			